

**From:** John Springer  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/19/01 1:47pm  
**Subject:** Proposed settlement doesn't solve anything

I object to the proposed settlement agreement, as it does NOT make it possible for anyone to compete with Microsoft in any computer-related market they choose to be in.

I believe the Windows operating system needs to be treated like a publicly owned standard, not a private money machine. Every software maker needs to have equal access to it, and computer manufacturers should be free to do whatever they want with it on machines they build.

It is an enormous myth that Microsoft was the magician that drove the computer industry to success. Microsoft has never made anything better, cheaper, or simpler in their history. It is Intel's success at continuously increasing hardware performance at lower prices that made the PC industry happen. So we can stop thinking that the success of the whole industry depends on keeping Microsoft at unconscionable, monopolistic profit margins.

I am most concerned about the future of the Internet. The Internet, as originally conceived, was built on simple open standards that everyone could use. Microsoft is hell-bent on destroying open standards and the DOJ settlement does not prevent them from marching forward by building more and more proprietary things into their monopoly OS until they control all electronic communications. That is wrong. And no-one but the DOJ can stop it.

Regards,

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